kathleen keifer

Kathleen Keifer is a California based internationally collected artist. She is the leading force of the New California Realism.

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." ~ Pablo Picasso The famous artist quote applies to Kathleen Keifer's lovely paintings. Kathleen brings a fresh, clean perspective to her colorful scenes of everyday life in the sun along our Pacific coastline (and beyond). Her images of tanned surfers, beat-up VW vans and convertibles, the Ferris wheel on the Santa Monica pier, swaying palm trees, and remarkable sunsets remind me of what the locals say to each other about 350 days a year: "This is why we live here."

Kathleen's paintings show us why anyone would want to live here. The weather is of course pristine; it is almost always sunny and 75 degrees, and it is never humid or buggy. The scenery is breathtaking. And there is so much to do, including of course nothing. Indeed, many of the coastlines' locals seem to be very practiced at that. Keen observers, like Keifer, prefer to depict them as being in-the-moment, completely in their own world. The artist lets us look over her shoulder and envy these characters. For one thing, they've figured out how to live here; more important, they're certainly not in any hurry.

Artist Statement

My paintings invite the viewer to consider the complex relationship between time and timelessness. This is particularly evident in my series work in which I aim to capture the infinite changes of time; the passing of the hours and the seasons. It is the sheer visual interaction between the elements, taken in their bare simplicity that interests me. Water, sky, and architecture change their appearance with the shifts in weather and light. My broken brush strokes depict light and color in luminous waves, dissolving form into a shimmering surface of vibrant light. For me, painting captures the very essence of time and its passage.

Backstory

Born and raised in Chicago, Kathleen Keifer is a second-generation artist. Her mother, also a fine artist, exposed Keifer to the world of art and supervised her training from a very early age. This legacy continues today as Keifer closely nurtures the development of the artistic leaning in each if her three daughters, inspiring a third generation of female artists.

Why should they be? And why should we be, for that matter? Why not linger over Kathleen's beautiful paintings and savor our own moment doing so?
-- Peter Hursh, Introduction to *Perspectives on Coastal Beauty: The art of Kathleen Keifer*

Contemporary Landscapes

A serene mist wraps around these almost abstract ocean oil paintings. There is such a broad range in their color palette and mood that they can add a finishing touch to almost any room. (Interior decorators particularly love the minimal horizons.) When I first arrived in Malibu in 1996, I was so captivated by the sublime scenery and pure color of California that my paintings ended up being a personal travelogue of my favorite sites along the coast -- from Neptune's Net at the County Line to the hidden coves of Laguna Beach. These paintings are records of my many days spent at the beach -- in Santa Monica, Venice, Manhattan Beach and Malibu. As I capture some of the ocean's million moods, I hope you can feel the wind and taste the salt.

I fell in love with these charming lollipop trees getting off an airplane at LAX. There they were, rows of them, swaying in the breeze and welcoming me to Los Angeles. Palm trees are a perfect icon of Southern California because (like any true Angeleno) they originally come from someplace else. They were the perfect subject matter to help me explore my fascination with color and mood.

Most of my collectors buy a series of three or four Palm tree portraits and compose a color story of their own. Like me, they seem to be fascinated with they way these colors work together. Palms hang in peoples' homes and the lobbies of Hilton hotels. Singer-songwriter Barry Manilow even purchased seven palms for his recording studio. It turns out he bought them because he associated each one with a different note on the musical scale. Genius!

The Under the Boardwalk series contains mysterious intimacy. Who are these beach goers, hidden beneath their hats and umbrellas? What are they doing? What are they saying? I paint hidden conversations I've glimpsed on beaches in the Hamptons, Atlantic City, New England. I paint what I see when I'm sipping my caramel mocha in my favorite Starbucks on the West Coast: the mysteries of Laguna, Venice, Manhattan and Hermosa Beach, even Santa Monica, the Pacific Palisades and Malibu. I try to preserve the memory of these summers as I see them -- shot through with sun and salt and Coppertone and Romance.

Keifer Art
Manhattan Beach, CA
E: keiferart@verizon.net
www.kathleenkeifer.com